

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the City of Poquoson, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

January 20, 2017 to February 17, 2017

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The Virginia CZM Program seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is proposing a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in the City of Poquoson. The federal consistency determination (FCD) submitted for the CCP focuses on the alternative B, which is the FWS-preferred alternative. The alternative emphasizes the management of specific refuge habitats to support priority refuge species whose habitat needs benefit other species of conservation concern that are found around the refuge and in the larger landscape of the lower Chesapeake Bay. The refuge encompasses 3,502 acres of salt marsh, marine shrubland and dune, sandy beaches and mudflats, and estuarine habitats in the lower Chesapeake Bay, near the mouth of the York River. The refuge is bounded by the Chesapeake Bay on all sides except the southwest. Lands immediately adjacent to the refuge are largely undeveloped, privately owned salt marsh within the city limits. A CCP outlines and guides long-term management for a national wildlife refuge during the next 15 years. According to the FCD, the proposed action would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Julia Wellman
DEQ Central Office, 6th Floor
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia, 23219
Phone: (804) 698-4326
Fax: (804) 698-4319
E-mail: Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov